Problems of rubber and cardamom growers of Kerala

*159. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps that are being taken to remove the present problems being faced by the rubber and cardamom growers in Kerala due to the present drought condition?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): There has been no noticeable impact of drought during 1989 on the growth and yield of Rubber in Kerala. However, preliminary estimates for cardamom indicate the plant loss to be between 10 to 15 per cent and the crop loss around 20 cent on account of drought.

The Rubber Board and the Spices Board are already implementing suitable schemes aimed at providing sufficient know how and financial assistance for countering the effects of drought.

Suggestions of some Chief Ministers for better Centre-State relations

*160. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will consider the suggestions made by the six Chief Ministers regarding formation of a national wage policy, for greater involvement of the States in decision making in the matter of Planning, for the introduction of consignment tax and formation of a national credit council, for better Centre-State relations; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in respect of the above matters is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Commission on Centre-State Relations including financial relation have been discussed by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Home Affairs and in both the Houses of Parliament. Comments of the State Governments have also been invited and a number of them have furnished their views and suggestions. The Government is keeping its mind open on all suggestions and recommendations.

Scientific Cooperation between Developed and Developing Countries

@934. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news report which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated the 22nd February, 1989 to the effect that Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Member Planning Commission and President of the I.C.S.U. has pleaded for scientific cooperation between the developed and developing countries for better understanding of global atmosphere and delicate linkages in earth system;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A conference on 'Global Warming and Climatic Change-Perspective from developing countries' was organised by the Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Woods Hole Research Centre, USA and the World Resources Institute, USA from 21—27 February, 1989 at New Delhi and was attended by about 150 scientists and environmentalist from within the country and abroad. The conference drew attention towards the threats of global warming and climatic change particularly for developing countries. It has called for cooperative action by all countries and

@Previously Unstarred Question 197 Transferred from the 25th April, 1989.